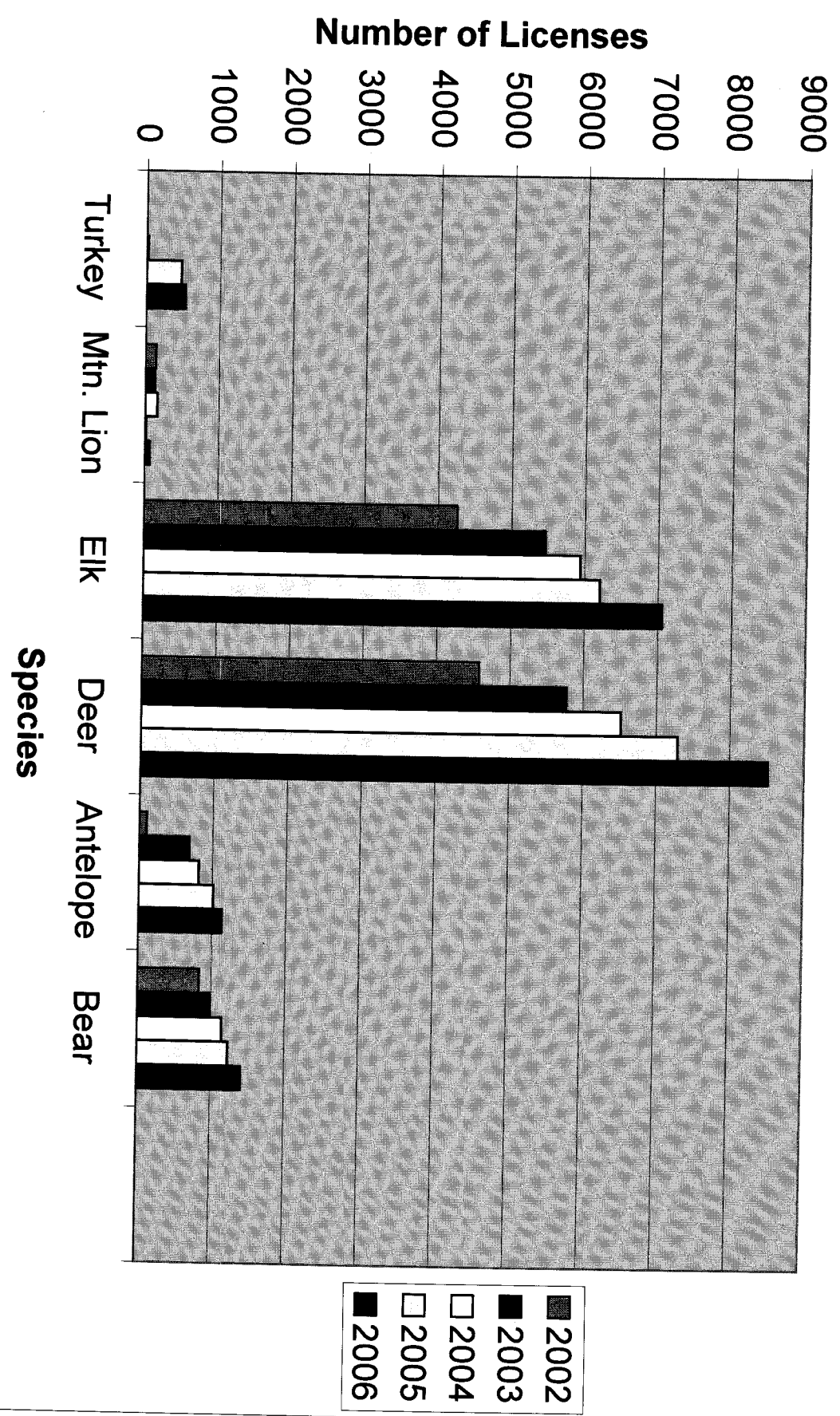


# Duplicate License Issue - by Year (ALS)



# Increase in lost hunting tags prompts proposed new law

The Associated Press

BOZEMAN — The number of replacement tags being issued to hunters in Montana has risen significantly in recent years, prompting concerns that unscrupulous hunters may be abusing the system to kill additional animals.

"Every year we're seeing more and more replacement licenses," said Jim Kropp, head of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' enforcement division. "I don't think Montanans are getting that much more forgetful."

At the request of the Montana Game Wardens Association, an East Helena lawmaker is proposing a bill to the 2007 Legislature that would allow regulators to

raise the cost of a replacement tag and make it harder to get one.

Currently, all it takes to replace a lost hunting license is a maximum of \$5 and a trip to any licensing agent, such as a sporting-goods store.

A bill being sponsored by Rep. Jill Cohenour, D-East Helena, would allow the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission to set higher fees for replacing lost tags or set up other hurdles, such as requiring people to go to an FWP regional office for a

replacement.

Kropp said the "balancing act" would come in setting fees high enough to make those trying to abuse the

system balk at the price, but still not be an undue burden on people who legitimately lost their tags.

Kropp said the

current ease of replacing licenses has three effects: it makes people less careful about losing them, it allows people to buy extra tags, and it makes it easier for poachers to transfer their tags to unlicensed people.

"Some people every year buy one or more sets of licenses and fill them," Kropp said. "We're seeing several thousand licenses purchased as duplicates, and they're not all lost."

He said that in the past few years, the number of duplicate licenses issued has risen from about 4,000 a year to 7,000.

Wardens are also finding duplicate licenses involved in large commercial poaching operations, Kropp said.

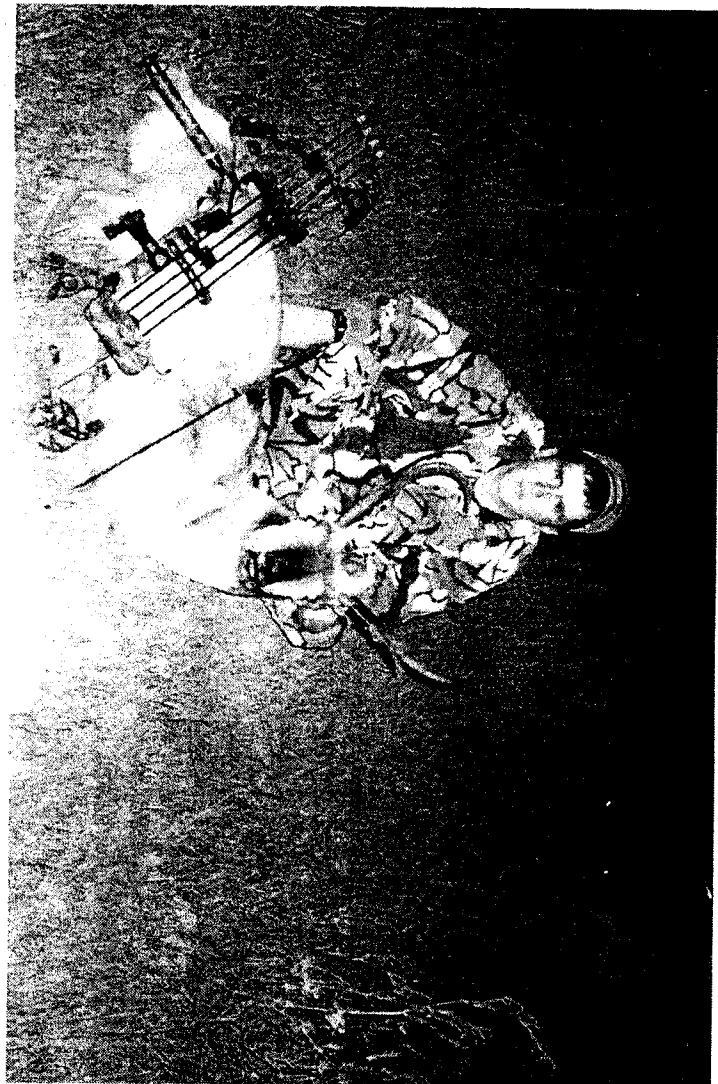
Wardens already use the automated licensing system to track people who regularly purchase duplicates. The system provides exact records of when, where and how many licenses and tags a person has bought.

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I don't think Montanans are getting that much more forgetful.

— Jim Kropp, head of FWP enforcement division

12/22/07



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1033

UNDABLE  
SCRIPTION

DISTRICT DESIGNATED CANNOT BE CHANGED

DATE  
OF ISSUE

DOB - ALS #

10/21/2003

08/03/1982 - 1

DATE  
OF ISSUE

10/21/2003

DATE  
OF ISSUE

10/14/2003

10/14/2003

08/03/1982 - 1

Signature of License holder

MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director

069198

